Food coupons

1297. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce food coupons so as to procure foodgrains from shops other than ration shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of ration shops and number of peoples below poverty level, State-wise, category-wise as on today;

(c) whether there is any proposal to close down ration shops and depots of Food Corporation of India;

(d) if so, the alternative steps adopted for Public Distribution System;

(e) whether there is any proposal to reduce/cancel present subsidies provided to Public Distribution System; and

(f) if so, the present status of proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and the ration cards issued to BPL families under the TPDS is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Statewise number of FPSs and Ration Cards issued to BPL families (As on 1.8.2005)

S.No.	States/UTs	No. of Fair Price Shops	No. of BPL Ration Cards(including AAY) issued (in lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	40814	138.47
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1444	0.99
3	Assam	33229	18.91
4	Bihar	41818	71.64

S.No.	States/UTs	No. of Fair Price Shops	No. of BPL Ration Cards(including AAY) issued (in lakhs)
5	Chhattisgarh	7869	19.17
6	Delhi	3010	4.47
7	Goa	522	0.28
8	Gujarat	14131	36.41
9	Haryana	7695	8.12
10	Himachal Pradesh	4137	2.91
11	J & K	3927	7.36
12	Jharkhand	14395	23.95
13	Karnataka	20621	70.04
14	Kerala	14147	20.43
15	Madhya Pradesh	18688	52.05
16	Maharashtra	50160	72.99
17	Manipur	2551	1.66
18	Meghalaya	4302	1.83
19	Mizoram	1028	0.69
20	Nagaland	401	1.24
21	Orissa	25186	48.95
22	Punjab	13874	7.14
23	Rajasthan	20903	23.14
24	Sikkim	1071	0.43
25	Tamil Nadu	27995	168.30*
26	Tripura	1446	2.95
27	Uttaranchal	7332	4.98
28	Uttar Pradesh	74788	106.79
29	West Bengal	20424	47.29
30	A & N Islands	488	0.16
31	Chandigarh	26	0.08
32	D&N Haveli	78	0.16
33	Daman & Diu	51	0.05
34	Lakshdweep	35	0.01
35	Pondicherry	410	0.98
	TOTAL	478996	811.49

*In Tamil Nadu there is no categorization of APL and BPL. There are 168.30 lakh Ration Cards including 14.77 lakh AAY cards.